

REPORT

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE

Contagious Fever in Ireland;

WITH AN
APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 8 May 1818.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the state of *Ireland*, as to the prevalence of Contagious Fever in that part of The United Kingdom, and to investigate the causes, temporary and permanent, which have led to the increased progress of this destructive Malady during the last and present year, and to report the same, from time to time, with their Observations thereupon, to The House; and also to report such measures, remedial and preventive, as may seem most efficacious to arrest its further extension, to guard, as far as human foresight can provide, against its recurrence, and to secure adequate means of support to the Establishments destined for the relief of the Diseased;—

HAVE considered it their duty, in proceeding in the task allotted to them, to pursue the course which the order of reference has pointed out, of ascertaining, in the first place, as far as they were enabled to do, the State of *Ireland*, as to the increased prevalence of Fever during the last and present year; the period from whence the commencement of that increase may be dated, in different parts of that Country; the extent to which it has proceeded, and the present condition, whether of diminution or increase of the malady in different districts; together with their reasons for believing that such diminution or increase may be progressive, or that the disease has assumed a more permanent character.

The great increase of this malady may, we think, be dated pretty generally through the Island from the Spring of 1817; in some places commencing with the months of March or April, in others, not until July, and even August. The Reports of the Fever Hospitals of Cork and Waterford, clearly trace the great increase of Fever in those cities to a period much earlier; in Cork as far back as the Autumn of 1816; in Waterford to January 1817. We advert to these reports particularly, because, as far as respects these large and populous cities, they furnish, in detail, the most ready means of judging accurately as to the progress and extent of the disease, from the monthly tables of admissions and deaths which are annexed to them. From Belfast also, we have the monthly returns of that Fever Hospital, in which the material increase is noted as commencing with the month of August. Of Limerick, where the disease appears to have raged very violently, we only know that nearly 2,600 Fever Patients have been under cure in the Hospitals during the last year, and 794 to the 5th of April of the present year. With respect to Dublin, the very accurate and detailed report of the Medical Board, presented to the Lord Lieutenant on the 16th of March last, which we have given in the Appendix, together with several other documents, shows the great and rapid weekly increase of Fever in the Capital from the 1st September 1817, when the entire number of Fever Patients in all the Hospitals amounted to 218, to the 28th February 1818, when it had

ADMISSIONS.	
In Waterford,	
in 1814 - -	175;
Do - in 1815 - -	403;
Do - in 1816 - -	307;
Do - in 1817 - -	930.
No application for Admission fruitless.	
Deaths, as one to 26.	
Admissions in Belfast:	
One year to May	
1816 -	102;
1 do to May 1817,	196;
Eleven months to	
1 April 1818,	1,450.
In May 1817 -	25;
June - -	29;
July - -	38;
August - -	76;
September -	164;
October - -	201;
November -	200;
December -	228;
January - -	193;
February - -	142;
March - -	154.

risen to 1,001, and on the 14th of March to 1,074, making an aggregate of admissions into all the Dublin Hospitals, which from time to time had been fitted up for their reception, of 7,451, during a period of seven months. This Report evinces also the anxious and laudable care and solicitude with which the *Irish* Government has supplied medical and other assistance and accommodation to the diseased, in the Metropolis. Their attention however, has been extended to other parts of *Ireland*, as will appear from the following advertisement published the 30th of September 1817:—

“ Dublin Castle, 30th September 1817:—SEVERAL Applications for assistance having been made, to the Lord Lieutenant, from districts of this country, wherein contagious fever is still prevalent; and His Excellency being anxious to co-operate with those who are making local efforts to check the progress of infection, and to administer to the wants of the poorer classes of the inhabitants who are suffering from fever, He has appointed a Committee of gentlemen of this city to meet at the Medical Board Office, for the purpose of receiving and reporting upon such applications.

“ The interference of Government must necessarily be limited to those cases wherein it shall appear, from written documents, that fever is still prevalent to an unusual extent, and that hospitals have been opened, or accommodation provided for the relief of the sick, by means of subscriptions of the wealthier part of the community.

“ In aid of such subscriptions, and on the recommendation of the Committee above-mentioned, the Lord Lieutenant will direct pecuniary aid to be granted, to be applied strictly in counteracting the effects and checking the progress of infectious disease; and apportioned in amount, according to the exigency of each particular case.

“ Applications, accompanied by documents, stating the number of sick accommodated, the means provided for their relief, and other particulars of this nature, addressed to “ The Committee, No. 5, Parliament-street,” may be forwarded by post, under cover, to the Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

(Signed) *Robert Peel.*”

Your Committee are strongly impressed with an opinion that public aid should still continue to be extended, according to the judgment of the Executive Government, on the terms on which it was offered by this advertisement; and that powers should be vested in the Government, by Parliament, for that purpose.

In Kilkenny
Fever Hospital,
Admitted from
1 January 1816 } 165;
to 1817 - - }
1 January 1817 } 757;
to 1818 - - }
1 January to 16 } 375.
March 1818 - }
Moate, 1,200 sick be-
tween June 1817 and
March 1818.
Boyle, 800 ill between
May and October
1817.
Navan, 11 months de-
cided continuance in
two thirds of the families
of all ranks, and but
very few of the families
of the Poor free from
the disease. Mortality
one in ten.

Of the extent to which the disease has prevailed, the melancholy details which we have already given, may in some degree enable the House to judge, when we add, that in Cork the number of Fever Patients is stated during the year ending 1st December 1817, to have amounted to more than 8,200, and from that time to the 29th of March last to 3,300: the deaths during the preceding period have been to the number of admissions as 1 to 26. In Waterford in 1817, the number of admissions was more than 900. In Belfast, from May 1817 to April 1818, 1,450. In many parts of the Country too it appears to have prevailed very extensively, particularly in the vicinity of Moate, Boyle, and Navan, where, from a limited population, many hundreds appear to have been afflicted, and in Armagh above two hundred to have been sick at one time. As to the extent to which it has affected the country parishes we annex the only account received in detail; that of Lough Gall, near Armagh, where of a population of 8,000, 1,009 have been ill, and the deaths as one in ten. From the want of Dispensaries or Hospitals generally dispersed, we have no detailed accounts of a very large part of Ireland, nor any account whatever of some entire counties, as Mayo and Donegal, except a statement that in this latter county it has prevailed very considerably; we can however have no doubt, that where no such establishments existed, great numbers of the poor must have undergone very great sufferings. One of the causes to which the progress of the disease is very generally ascribed, the crowds of wretched mendicants, by whom the country has been traversed in all directions, affords a melancholy proof and illustration of this opinion.

The



The mortality has been much greater among the higher ranks of society, whom the disease has attacked, than in the labouring classes; and the physicians and other medical attendants, as well as the clergy of different denominations, have felt its destructive force in much more than an ordinary proportion, as the discharge of duty, uniting with the claims of humanity, exposed them peculiarly to its visitation.

The extent of the disease seems in general in some degree diminished, as far as we at present possess information; in Ulster very considerably indeed. Whether the diminution may or may not be progressive, and in what degree, it is very difficult to form any judgment; more especially as it has frequently abated for a time to break out with renewed violence; in the cities of Cork and Limerick too, the numbers seem to be on the increase. Of the causes, to which we are to trace a malady so distressing and extensive, we cannot convey our opinion more clearly than by adopting the forcible expressions used by the Medical Board, dated 1st May last, and transmitted by Dr. Renny, which are as follows:—"As the health of the country at large, is an object of great interest, I think it right to state, that by reports now before me, of a late date, from the Staff Medical Officers superintending the provinces of Leinster, Munster, Connaught, and Ulster, as well as from a variety of letters written by respectable medical correspondents, and connected with the Army, it appears that Typhus fever is generally on the decline. All these authorities, however, concur in dwelling on the continuance of the privations, under which the lower orders in Ireland have suffered so severely for some time past, and to which the origin of the existing epidemic is very much owing; and that numbers of wandering beggars are at present roaming over the face of the country, and appear on the increase.

Vide letters from Ross, Tralee and Curnew, as supplying striking proofs of this position.

It is quite evident, therefore, that Fever will prevail, to a greater or lesser degree, while these predisposing causes continue to operate so extensively, and that we must look beyond medical judgment and medical exertions, for palliating or removing the present heavy affliction. The wisdom and energy of the Legislature, and of the Government, may perhaps do something in this matter; but it is very difficult to find an effectual remedy for poverty, the cause and continuance of which are mainly to be ascribed to a rapidly increasing population, whilst the means of procuring productive labour and employment for the multitude, instead of advancing with some proportion, as yet remains nearly stationary."—

But until some adequate means can be devised, for the removal of those evils, it becomes our duty to suggest such measures, as appear to us immediately necessary to check the progress, to mitigate its severity, as well as to secure to the institutions destined to its relief, due and adequate protection; and with this view we offer to the House the following Recommendations:

1st. THAT the subscribers to Fever Hospitals be incorporated in like manner, and with like powers as the subscribers to Houses of Industry in Ireland now are.

2ndly. THAT the General Dispensary Act should be amended, and that the powers now possessed by Grand Juries of counties to present for the support of such establishment, be extended to counties of cities, and counties of towns.

3rdly. THAT upon proof of a sum subscribed, and paid by the subscribers, for the erection or hiring of or attaching to any Dispensary a House, to be applied to the reception of Fever Patients, and upon medical certificate of the necessity of providing accommodation for such patients, it shall be lawful for the Grand Jury to present a sum, equal in amount to double the sum actually raised by subscription; and such further sum annually for the support of the houses so hired or erected, as shall not exceed double the amount of the subscription actually raised for their support.

4thly. THAT it is highly desirable that some exemptions from the Hearth and Window Taxes should be granted to lodging houses, under certain regulations, so calculated as to secure the benefit of such exemptions to the persons who lodge therein.

5thly. THAT it is expedient, in those cases wherein there is no Fever Hospital at present, that the Grand Jury should have a power of presenting such sum as they may think necessary for the construction of One Fever Hospital in each county, in such situation as to the Grand Jury may seem most desirable :

THE Lord Lieutenant to have a power of issuing the sum necessary for the construction of the Fever Hospital, to be repaid by instalments within the period of six years :

In cases where there is a Fever Hospital at present, the Grand Jury may present a sum for enlarging or altering such hospital, if deemed necessary ; the sum to be repaid in like manner.

6thly. THAT in order to preserve the country from the spreading of contagion, it is recommended, that on the Fever appearing in any city, town or district, under such circumstances as to warrant the apprehension of its more extended progress, it would be proper that such city, town or district be enabled to hold a meeting under the authority of one or more magistrates, and to certify to the Lord Lieutenant the necessity of constituting in such district a Board of Health, to exist during the continuance of such emergency, to be composed of the members of Dispensary Establishments, or Fever Hospitals, or a certain number of the more respectable parishioners and medical men of such district, where no Fever Hospital or Dispensary exists ; who should be armed, temporarily, with more enlarged powers to abate and remove nuisances, and to check contagion, than are extended to magistrates at present.

7thly, THAT the powers to be intrusted, temporarily, to such Board of Health be as follows :

That they should have power to cleanse all streets, lanes, yards and houses, and to remove from thence all nuisances prejudicial to health ; to cleanse, fumigate and whitewash infected houses, and to destroy or cleanse infected beds and bedding, to open windows, and to take such other measures for ventilation as may be absolutely necessary :

That wherever Fever Hospitals, or places for the reception of the diseased, are already established, to remove on certificate of one medical person, to such Fever Asylum, any diseased person, who shall not be certified by a medical person to be already under cure, and placed in such circumstances as to prevent the communication of contagion, so far as can be foreseen, to any other member of his family, or his neighbours :

To have powers to affix to any house where the disease prevails, a mark or sign, denoting that some of the inhabitants are infected with Fever.

The powers and the constitution of such Board, to be considered as entirely temporary, and to cease with the emergency on which they are founded.

8th May 1818.

A P P E N D I X

To the Report from the Select Committee on the
Contagious Fever in *Ireland*.

CORK:—Tables annexed.—Latest accounts, 6 May 1818, in hospital 436, remain in out-houses, for want of accommodation, 105; voluntary contributions during year, £. 9,660; grand jury presentments, £. 500; funds very nearly exhausted, and no prospect of further aid from voluntary contributions; fever not at all diminishing—(Lord Bishop of *Cork* and Dr. *Barry*.)

Drs. Barry, Daly and Beamish, declare, that the affusion of cold water never has failed to check the disease, when applied on or before the third day.

Limerick:—22d April 1818: Admitted, from 6th January 1817 to 5th January 1818, including 73 remaining from former year, 2,549; of these, cured 2,173, died 173, or about two in twenty-seven.

Remained, 6 January 1818, in hospitals	-	-	203	
From 6 January to 5 April 1818, under care	-	-	794	
Discharged, cured	-	-	528	} About two in thirteen.
Died	-	-	95	
Remained, 5 April	-	-	171	in hospitals.

Kilkenny:—In fever hospital, from 1 March 1817 to 16 March 1818;

In the house, 1 March 1817	-	-	-	13	
Admitted, to 16 March 1818	-	-	-	1,112	
				—	1,125
Cured	-	-	-	990	
Died	-	-	-	63	more than one in seventeen.
Remaining in house	-	-	-	72	

Total number of patients admitted in 1816, 165; of whom 105 not of county or city. In 1817, 757; of whom not of county or city, 490. From 1st January to 16th March 1818, 375; of whom 298 were neither of county or city of Kilkenny. Expenses of Kilkenny fever hospital, during the year ending 1st March last, £. 1,500; of which £. 300 by presentment, £. 100 by Government donation, £. 1,100 by subscriptions and donations of individuals.—(Dr. *Edmund Ryan*.)

Clonmell :—In hospital, 1 January 1817	-	-	6	
Admitted, during year 1817	-	-	758	about 15 per week.
Dismissed, cured	-	-	661	
Died	-	-	28	
Remained	-	-	75	
Admitted, from 1st January 1818 to 8th May 1818,	-	-	588	about thirty-six per week.
Cured	-	-	558	
Died	-	-	29	

Deaths, to admissions in former period, as two to forty-nine; in the latter period, as two to forty. Remain in hospital 76, and in convalescent house 23. It is also stated, on the part of the house of recovery, that a dysentery is now there prevalent, which has proved fatal to many of the poor, and that they see no probability of the fever disappearing, until the people are more generally employed.—11th May.—(James Moore.)

Waterford:—Tables of admissions and deaths from 1799 to January 1818, annexed. From 1803, given monthly, epidemic fever of 1801 approached more nearly in extent to present than that of any other year; but mortality less mild in symptoms, and shorter in duration. Also a table, distinguishing the sexes, and the country from the town patients. The affusion of cold water has been found most beneficial when applied before or on the third day; and the separation of the diseased from the healthy is forcibly recommended.

Londonderry:—July 1817 to January 1818: Admitted 636, died 45; one in fourteen; in a temporary house principally occupied by itinerant paupers. In gaol and infirmary, admitted 110, died 7. A large list of inhabitants afflicted with fever, at least 160, attended in their own houses. Funds, except £. 150 from Government, raised by subscription. (Sir George Hill.)

Monaghan:—20 April 1818. Hospital opened 16 August 1817 to 16 April 1818, admitted 700, died 37; rather above one in nineteen; 15 remain in hospital. Funds exhausted, and in debt above £. 200, after allowing for grand jury presentments not yet due. Total of expenses, £. 953. Many applying in vain for admission, from want of funds, to which Government contributed £. 100, and the rest was derived from grand jury presentments and subscriptions. (Mr. Lucas.)

Dundalk:—Commencement 27 August, admissions 588, died 19; about one in thirty; supported by subscriptions above £. 800; necessary to separate sick from healthy, even compulsorily, to check disease. (Viscount Jocelyn.)

Monte:—Dr. Melville states, commencement in June; introduced by wandering mendicants; up to March 1808, believes about 1,200 to have been afflicted, about 100 died. Some hundreds had no medical aid; no fever hospital; considers want of employment, and its consequent evils, as prominent causes.

Navan:—Mr. Nicholls. 1 April 1818. Fever at its height end of autumn. Since then declines; occasionally however resuming its violence; now shorter and milder than it was; nine-tenths of the families have been in some degree affected, and about three-fourths in each family of the poorer classes. No fever hospital. Causes, feeding on damaged corn and wild rape, want of fuel, bad clothing and lodging, and want of employment.

Armagh:—Mr. Simpson. Commencement April 1817; at its greatest height in September 1818; 200 then lying ill in the town at one time, now only two or three cases in town, but still prevalent in country. (Note, the parish of Loughgal, specified in the report, is in the vicinity of this city.) Causes; want of food, cold and wet weather, want of fuel, want of cleanliness, insufficient ventilation from stopping up windows, depression of mind from want of employment. No fever hospital; had such been early established, and sick separated from the healthy, the contagion would have been much checked; greatly extended by travelling mendicants.

Belfast:—Dr. Thomson, 2d April 1818. Commencement of increase, April 1817; still prevalent though declining; hospital, when most full, contained 200; now 160 patients; from May 1817 to March 1818, admitted 1,450; population of town about 28,000; recommends white-washing, fumigation, ventilation; progress principally checked by early removal to fever hospitals, where any; disease there much less violent. Apathy and despondency, connected with their want of employment, a principal cause of its extension; upper and middle ranks in Belfast remarkably exempt; in places where no hospitals, it very generally reached upper ranks, and proved to them very fatal.

Tralee:—Dr. Mawe. 16 April 1818. Six beds in fever hospital were sufficient in 1814; number increased to ten in September 1816, and to twenty in September 1817, and this latter a most insufficient provision; many obliged to be refused admission; early in February of this year disease abated; is again increasing, though not materially. Causes; insufficiency and bad quality of food; inattention to cleanliness;

liness; want of employment confirmed as a leading cause; by the nearly entire exemption of the town and vicinity of Dingle in the same county, where the linen manufacture is carried on extensively, and the poor are in constant employment and habitually thrifty; in Tralee too, the fever did not decline till the approach of the assizes afforded employment to the poor on roads.

Dungannon:—4th May 1818. Dr. Sinclair. Fever hospital could only afford room to 211 patients, between 20 June 1817 and 3d February 1818, when it closed. Numbers relieved at dispensary in same period, 1663, besides numbers in country round of whom no account was kept. Causes; unwholesome food in scanty portions; want of fuel; damp and comfortless habitations; and contagious influence greatly extended by travelling mendicants. First means of remedy; separation of diseased from healthy; strict cleanliness; thorough ventilation; cold bath or ablution with vinegar and water, as case required; affusion of cold water most beneficial; of 211 in hospital but 7 died.—(N. B. All the reports of Dr. Barry, of Cork; Dr. Bracken of Waterford, and several others, agree in the superior efficacy of the affusion of cold water, or by sponging the body, when it can be applied in the early stages of the complaint.)

Stratford on Slaney:—Dr. Heath. From the 3d day of May 1817, when the fever house was opened, to the 1st day of May 1818, 271 patients admitted, of whom 236 were discharged cured, and only five died. An incalculable number stated to have been preserved from contagion by the removal of infected persons to the fever house. A large number of fever patients attended at their own houses. On the 1st May 1818, the date of the report, the fever had not decreased, either with respect to the number infected, or in malignancy.

Clonmell:—Dr. Green and Mr. Fitzgerald; dated March and April 1818; date, commencement of increase a year preceding; gained considerable strength between June and October 1817; since then nearly stationary. A dysentery has also prevailed among the poor, which has carried off more than the fever.—Patients in hospital, 110. Causes; distress from want of employment, the leading cause of its progress; the pressure of the last three years has heavily affected every class of the community, and very greatly diminished the demand for labour. Debility, from insufficient and bad food, and want of clothing, added to complete depression of mind and despondency. The military well clothed, well fed, and kept in a state of activity, remarkably free from fever.

Carlow:—Dr. Reed, 3d April. Fever prevalent about ten months, and still continues, although not so extensively as in autumn and winter, and has appearances of entirely subsiding. Causes; scarcity and bad quality of food, but want of employment of the poor, and consequent misery and wretchedness, the prominent cause of its extension. Recommends removal of diseased into fever hospital, cleansing and white-washing cabins, and giving fresh straw to remainder of family, but no radical cure except from increased employment.

Tipperary:—Drs. Evans, Armstrong and Ray, 1st April. Increase of fever a year preceding; still continues, but not quite so general as a month since; has occasionally subsided, and returned with renewed violence. Causes; scarcity and bad quality of food; extraordinary variableness of weather, and want of solar heat; scarcity of fuel; accumulation of dunghills and nuisances; infection much extended in houses of better classes by exclusion of air, from stopping up windows where light could be dispensed with; want of employment, and evils consequent upon it.

Cashell:—Mr. Upton, 28th March, 1818. Commencement, October 1816; prevalent at Golden, and extended to Cashell, considerably during summer of 1817. Causes; bad clothing, want of ventilation, accumulation of dungheaps, want of employment and despondency. Collected 200*l.* for fever hospital, and received from Government 70*l.* Funds nearly exhausted. Epidemic rapidly increases.

New Ross:—Dr. Doyle. Fever not very severe at any time; now decreasing; best preventives, regular and constant employment, not a man of those engaged in work, there having taken it; cleanliness, ventilation, and fumigation, found most effectual in checking its progress; much spread by strolling beggars.

Carnew:—Dr. Derenzy, 5th April 1818. Fever trifling in 1816; increased last summer, and still prevails, but not extensively. Causes; want of cleanliness, confined air, and despondency from want of employment; it has been heavy on two-thirds of the parish, where there is great want of employment; in the other third, where work is carried on, he knows of but one case. Remedies; cleanliness, white-washing, fumigation with nitric and muriatic acid, and separating the diseased from the healthy, of which he adduces a striking instance; eleven successively attacked in one family, and in several others adjoining, much fever, whilst one individual, by absolute prohibition of all communication with the infected families, preserved his household entirely free.

Galway:—Mr. Whistler. Commencement, spring 1817, by persons flocking into town from distress; it became very general among rich and poor; though harvest had been abundant, poor unable to purchase from want of employment; immediate separation of infected from healthy, only means employed to check it, and funds very insufficient to afford much relief.

Cavan:—Mr. Roe and Dr. Murray; April 1818. Commencement of much fever in May 1817, amongst lower classes; spread in summer and autumn to middle and higher ranks; much done for relief of the diseased by Countess of Farnham and Bishop of Kilmore; has been latterly confined to lower ranks; still prevails there considerably. Causes; scanty and unwholesome food, want of employment, great consequent distress. Fever not likely soon to disappear, as this cause not likely to be removed. Swarms of mendicants spread the contagion.

Boyle:—Dr. Hall; 3d April 1818. Fever commenced June 1817; about 800 persons ill of it, from that time to the 4th of October, in town and its vicinity; since then, gradually declining, but still occasionally presents itself. Whether scarcity of provisions and want of employment, with inactivity of middle and lower classes, produced fever, cannot decide; but is certain, they have acted powerfully in keeping it up when it had appeared; in absence of regular provision, for separating sick from healthy, obliged to rely on white-washing, and as far as could be attained in forcing cleanliness and fumigations of the ill constructed hovels of the poor. Result very defective from such defective means.

Drogheda:—Dr. Fairclough, and others; 1st April 1818. Fever increased in August, at its height end of November; from that time declining, but still more prevalent than usual. Causes; debility from bad quality and scanty supply of food to lower classes, want of employment, despondency, and slothful and dirty habits in consequence. No fever hospital here at first; a house used in October, by private subscriptions and Government aid, for those malignant cases, as far as it could afford accommodation. Interior of houses of fever patients whitewashed, fresh straw given, and old straw removed or burned, and fumigation employed to stop contagion.

Sligo:—Drs. Foyne and Johnston; 13th May 1818. Fever became general in April 1817, amongst the poor; at first, mild, but in June 1817, more malignant, and two hundred and fifty afflicted in a population of 12,000. Dispensary only relief at first, but by subscription, in August, a Fever Hospital established; opened 25th September, when 164 patients were under cure; three medical attendants had been previously attacked, of whom one died; 52 admitted into hospital, *with much difficulty*, but no paupers have been from that time refused; many had, till then, been deserted, and were lying in the open streets; from that time, the fever has been decreasing, gradually, but with occasional instances of increase, particularly in the week ending 3d of April.

Admissions from 25th September to 13th of May 1818 - - 314.

Died, nineteen, or one in seventeen.

Three companies of foot, and the troop of dragoons in barracks, and the boys in Charter School, as free from disease as in any season.

TABLE I.
CORK FEVER HOSPITAL.
RETURN of Patients admitted within the last Fifteen Years.

YEARS.				ADMITTED.	DISCHARGED.	DIED.
1803	-	-	-	254	241	9
1804	-	-	-	190	185	4
1805	-	-	-	200	192	7
1806	-	-	-	441	427	13
1807	-	-	-	192	188	4
1808	-	-	-	232	225	7
1809	-	-	-	278	267	6
1810	-	-	-	432	403	17
1811	-	-	-	646	627	19
1812	-	-	-	617	610	13
1813	-	-	-	550	521	26
1814	-	-	-	845	814	27
1815	-	-	-	717	705	21
1816	-	-	-	1,026	958	37
1817	-	-	-	2,707	2,503	100
TOTAL - -				9,327	8,866	310

Remain in the House - - - 151

RETURN of Patients admitted into the HOUSE OF RECOVERY, from the
8th November 1816, to the 8th November 1817, both days inclusive.

Years.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	TOTAL.
1816-17	124	144	146	160	170	204	219	224	262	265	414	425	2,707

In the House on the 8th November 1816 - - - 47

Admitted from 8th November 1816 to 8th November 1817 2,707

—2,754

Discharged, cured - - - - - 2,503

Died - - - - - 100

Remain in the House - - - - - 151

—2,754

TABLE II.—WATERFORD FEVER HOSPITAL.

(1.)—Admissions every Year from its first Establishment in 1799;
And monthly from 1803.

Years.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.	Deaths.
1799													146	6
1800													409	23
1801													875	24
1802													419	25
1803	9	15	9	27	19	17	16	23	22	11	10	10	188	16
1804	9	13	17	28	30	35	18	11	9	16	18	19	223	22
1805	24	9	20	32	24	29	43	31	25	28	19	13	297	22
1806	13	17	25	14	10	14	24	12	10	5	10	11	165	14
1807	19	15	10	18	15	13	20	8	12	17	5	14	166	12
1808	18	10	23	13	15	9	22	13	13	8	6	7	157	14
1809	6	16	23	10	19	15	16	23	30	20	22	22	222	19
1810	19	27	30	43	46	43	47	33	42	24	27	29	410	22
1811	25	20	30	30	40	23	33	24	25	27	27	27	331	22
1812	14	28	40	52	34	25	27	28	19	17	15	24	323	24
1813	34	10	14	31	23	28	21	24	14	22	20	11	252	13
1814	18	11	13	9	22	10	13	17	11	14	10	27	175	13
1815	21	25	31	26	26	53	47	40	26	32	32	44	403	26
1816	37	22	28	27	24	25	24	16	15	27	24	38	307	25
1817	52	44	56	40	71	77	77	101	84	104	100	124	930	34

The Register of Patients for the four first years has been, it is feared, lost; so that the monthly admissions of those years, could not be stated in this Table.

(2.)—Males and Females.—Admissions and Deaths; distinguishing Patients from the Country.

1817.					Admitted.			Dismissed.	Died.	Country Patients.
					Males.	Females.	Total.			
January	-	-	-	-	24	28	52	48	3	13
February	-	-	-	-	19	25	44	45	1	11
March	-	-	-	-	29	27	56	48	2	12
April	-	-	-	-	20	20	40	52	4	6
May	-	-	-	-	33	38	71	48	4	10
June	-	-	-	-	39	38	77	75	3	12
July	-	-	-	-	38	39	77	72	1	20
August	-	-	-	-	51	50	101	85	4	28
September	-	-	-	-	42	42	84	90	1	18
October	-	-	-	-	52	52	104	94	5	22
November	-	-	-	-	53	47	100	94	2	20
December	-	-	-	-	69	55	124	118	4	25
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	469	461	930	869	34	197

Remaining in the Hospital 1st Jan. 1817 - - - 23
Ditto Ditto 31st Dec. 1817 - - - 50

The

The Admissions were most numerous in the winter months, at the end of the year, at which we need not be surprised; for although cold, in certain circumstances, has an obvious tendency to check febrile disease, and has been accordingly applied as a remedy in the treatment of Fever; yet, when combined with damp or wet, filth, and hunger (which is most severely felt in cold weather) it can be no longer regarded as a useful auxiliary, but as a pernicious enemy. The obvious effect of the combination of these evils is, to bring the poor more closely together in their filthy habitations, and to induce them to resort to the use or abuse of whiskey, substituting slow poison for wholesome food. But since the latter end of the year 1816, the food of the people has been of a bad quality, and, what is perhaps still worse, deficient in quantity. When to all these is superadded the depression of mind necessarily attending upon such circumstances, we need not wonder at the great and spreading extension of Fever in this country, whatever may be considered as its origin. Many, very many, of the poor, in most large towns, generally live in a kind of despair; they even hold their lives cheap, when compared with those in better circumstances.

EXTRACT OF A REPORT to Government on a Statement lately made to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, by a deputation from certain respectable Physicians in Dublin; dated, Army Medical Office, Dublin, 16 March 1818.

—“ WE have annexed, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a TABLE, which gives an accurate and detailed view of the entire of admissions of Fever Patients into the Hospitals of Dublin, for six months, ending 28th of February 1818, with an additional Table of the admissions of Fever Patients from the 1st of March to the 14th instant, inclusive; from which the following inferences are obviously deducible:—

1st. That the total admissions of Fever Patients into the Dublin Hospitals during six months, ending 28th of February 1818, stands at 7,096.

2d. That at the commencement of the above six months, viz. on the 1st of September 1817, the total number of Fever Patients amounted to no more than 218, and that on the 28th of February 1818 they had risen to 1,001, including about 100 Patients accommodated in Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, constituting an increase of 783 in six months.

3d. That on the 28th of February 1818, the entire of the Fever Patients in the Dublin Hospitals amounted to 1,001; and that on the 14th of March, being fourteen days later, they amounted to 1,074, being an increase of 73.

4th. That the total of deaths during six months has amounted to 456, forming a proportion of admissions of somewhat more than one in sixteen; and that the average daily admissions during same period was somewhat about 39.

These facts afford convincing proofs of the progressive increase of Fever in the City of Dublin, from September 1817 to March 1818. At the same time it must give real satisfaction to every humane individual to know, that this mass of disease had been relieved by Government with a zeal and promptitude equal to the magnitude and severity of the pressure, by opening capacious and well ventilated Hospitals, and putting them under the care of active and experienced physicians, although we have no hesitation in giving it as our decided opinion, that these Hospitals should be still farther augmented, so as to increase the accommodation to fifteen hundred beds.

It deserves to be remarked, that with the exception of 1000*l.* per annum, subscribed by individuals for the maintenance of the Cork-street Fever Hospital, the whole of the expense of maintaining and relieving the above number of Patients, has been defrayed by Government, although in other Cities and Districts of Ireland, in which Fever had prevailed to as great an extent as in the Capital, compared with their population, the relief of the Sick Poor was principally defrayed by funds raised from the wealthy and benevolent part of the community, as the bounty of Government, when recently applied to so extensive a field of poverty and disease, was necessarily confined to grants of money far below the actual expenditure.

In the third place, we beg leave to refer to the inclosed statement from the Governors of the House of Industry, in proof that the foresight and watchfulness of government were manifested several months ago, by calling their attention to the enforcement of preventive measures, and by furnishing them with adequate funds for the above purposes; and it is only necessary to peruse this document with attention, and to refer to the printed monthly reports from that charitable establishment, to be satisfied that these salutary measures have been duly and actively enforced, under the immediate direction and responsibility of the governors; and we have every reason to think, that the same course is now in full activity throughout many parishes of the city, under the superintendence of humane and public spirited individuals, who have devoted their time, as well as their money, to the promoting of so good a work. On this part of the case, our opinion is, that much has been done, much is now doing, and much will no doubt continue to be done, in the way of checking the progress of contagious Fever amongst the lower orders of inhabitants of Dublin, until it shall please God to remove the scourge, which is still so severely and extensively inflicted; and although there are facts now before us, which afford good reason for believing that contagious Fever, though increasing in many places, is generally upon the decline throughout the kingdom at large, especially in the province of Ulster, where it first appeared, and was most extended; at the same time, we do not mean to infer from this, that the health of the country will be speedily restored, on the contrary, we think it highly probable that the present epidemic will continue to prevail in this city, and elsewhere, to a greater or lesser extent for some time to come; and we are confirmed in this belief, as we know that very many persons have relapsed again into Fever, a short time after they had been discharged from hospital and returned to their wretched habitations, from the want of fuel, of food, and of clothing, deprivations for the removal of which we do not profess ourselves competent to suggest adequate remedies, as they embrace so wide a field of national distress.

With respect to other measures of prevention, brought forward by the physicians in their second report, and the subjoined observations of Doctor Perceval, we cannot venture to recommend the appropriation of any public funds to such purposes, however well calculated they may appear to meet the existing evils, being persuaded that such measures of detail can be accomplished only by a combination of vigilance and economy, which perhaps may be united in the administration of private funds; but which there is reason to fear would soon be relaxed, if the exertions of individuals were to be supported from the resources of the state.

(Signed) *W. Harvey*, Physⁿ Gen^l.
G. Renny, Dir^r Gen^l Hosp^l.
Philip Crampton, Surg. Gen^l.

A GENERAL VIEW OF THE

Admissions of Fever Patients into the Fever Hospitals attached to the House of Industry and Steevens's Hospital, as also the House of Recovery, Cork-street, Dublin; with the Deaths which occurred therein for Six Months, commencing 1st September 1817, and ending 28th February 1818.

House of Industry.

In hospital, 1st September 1817, - - - 87 fever patients.
 In hospital, 28th February 1818, - - - 570 - D^o - Increase 483.
 Total of admissions during six months, }
 ending 28th February 1818, - - - } 3,431.
 Total number of deaths during same period, - 267.
 Proportion between the admissions and deaths, somewhat more than 1 in 13.

Steevens's Hospital.

In hospital, 28th February 1818,* - - - 82 fever patients.
 Total of admissions, from 18th September 1817
 to 28th February 1818, - - - - - 931.
 Total number of deaths during same period, - - 48.
 Proportion between the admissions and deaths, somewhat below 1 in 19.

House

* Steevens's Hospital was not opened for the reception of Fever patients until the 18th of September 1817.

House of Recovery, Cork-street.

In hospital, 1st September 1817, - - - 131 fever patients.
In hospital, 28th February 1818, - - - 249 - d° - Increase 118.
Total of admissions during the six months ending 28th February 1818, - 2,734.
Total number of deaths during same period, - - - 141.
Proportion between the admissions and deaths, somewhat below 1 in 19.

General Recapitulation.

In hospital, 1st September 1817, - - - 218 fever patients.
In hospital, 28th February 1818, - - - 901 - d° - Increase 683.
Total admissions - - - - *7,096
Total of deaths - - - - *456
General proportion between the admissions and deaths, somewhat more than
1 in 16.
Average of daily admissions, somewhat more than 39.

ADDITIONAL TABLE,

Showing the number of Fever Patients in Hospital in Dublin,
on the 14th of March 1818.

House of Industry :—631 fever patients, being an increase of 61, since the 28th of
February.
Steevens's Hospital :—76 fever patients, being a decrease of six, since the 28th of
February.
House of Recovery, Cork-street :—272 fever patients, being an increase of 23, since
the 28th of February.
Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital :—95 fever patients.

Total of fever patients in the House of Industry, Steevens's Hospital and House of Recovery, Cork-street, on the 28th of February 1818	-	-	-	-	901
Supposed number of fever patients in Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital	-	-	-	-	100
					—1,001

Total of fever patients on 14th of March 1818, viz.					
House of Industry	-	-	-	-	631
Steevens's Hospital	-	-	-	-	76
House of Recovery, Cork-street	-	-	-	-	272
Sir Patrick Dun's hospital	-	-	-	-	95
					—1,074
					—
				Increase	- 73
					==

* These Totals do not include the Fever poor in Sir P. Dunn's Hospital, as it was not opened until
the 19th of February 1818, for the reception of such patients.

8 May 1818.

REPORT
FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
Contagious Fever in Ireland;

WITH AN

APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 May 1818.*
